

News Release

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Release

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July 31, 2000

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Olympic Spirit at the USGS

The high-pitched sound of balloons wheezing and children giggling came from Jill Carlivati's science lab at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) during Science Camp 2000. The campers were experimenting on how exercise affected their bodies. They monitored their heart and breathing rates and body temperatures and recorded the data on charts. Studying the physiological effects of exercise corresponded with the Olympic theme of Going For Gold, the third session of the highly successful science camp developed by the USGS and the Reston Association. Four two-week sessions are offered for children ages 8-12.

Tom Yanosky, USGS research botanist, impressed campers with his "cookies," which were actually cross sections of tree cuts sanded smooth to make the rings visible. He explained how trees grow, how evidence of historical environmental disasters shows up in tree rings and how to use an increment bore to take samples from trees.

During the Going for Gold session the campers visited the Karon Gymnastic Center in Manassas, where they had fun on a trampoline. They also visited a local goldsmith to see jewelry being created from raw gold.

Other educational activities during the session included visiting the computer lab to look at Internet Web sites about the history of the Olympics and gold mining. The children also swam at area pools, went creeking and enjoyed a cookout and festival.

The last Science Camp 2000 session scheduled is Imagine That. For more information on the Reston Association Science Camps, please contact the Reston Association Registrar's office at 703-435-6551.

(more)

As the nation's largest water, earth and biological science and civilian mapping agency, the USGS works in cooperation with more than 2,000 organizations across the country to provide reliable, impartial scientific information to resource managers, planners, and other customers. This information is gathered in every state by USGS scientists to minimize the loss of life and property from natural disasters, to contribute to the conservation and the sound economic and physical development of the nation's natural resources, and to enhance the quality of life by monitoring water, biological, energy, and mineral resources.

USGS

(Note to Reporters/Editors: If interested in obtaining digital photographs of the activities mentioned in this news release, please contact Cheryl O'Brien at 703-648-5929 with your e-mail address.)